

The President. Well, this is a—as I understand the law, the taxpayers won't pay any of the bills, because I'm not a target of the investigation, which the American people might find interesting to know. As I understand it, the Federal Government doesn't reimburse people's legal bills unless—I think one of the Cabinet members in a previous administration got some legal bills reimbursed because he was a target of an investigation, and then was either acquitted or not charged or something.

So I am assuming that I will be responsible in some form or fashion for those legal bills. But as I said, I didn't run for this office for the money. And I feel badly that 20 years of our hard effort and savings may go away. We've received some help from some people who, as you know, have contributed to the legal expense fund.

But if I stay healthy, I'll be able to pay my bills and earn a pretty good living. I'm far more concerned about the legal bills of other people that are much—they're smaller legal bills, but for them it's a lot of money. So I'm a lot more concerned about them than myself.

Yes, sir. One more.

Q. Could you clarify something, sir? Some of your answers today seem to suggest that you might agree with Mr. Gingrich and Mr. Dole that it might well take another election to resolve this whole budget deal.

The President. No, I disagree with that. I completely disagree with that.

Q. So you believe then, sir, that this is not going to go on and on and on. I mean, can you predict right now that by the State of the Union Address—

The President. Well, if it—let me just say that if it's up to me, I will do everything I can to keep it from going on and on. That is, we know you have now two plans that the Congressional Budget Office has certified. You just have to take my word for it, because we promised not to discuss the negotiations, but we've moved closer together. We are not that far apart on the money. As a percentage of the total monies that will be spent in the categories at issue, we probably are warring over less than 2 percent now. But in terms of the policies and the human impact, the

potential is very great in that money that's left. So there are policy differences left.

Now, what I'm saying to you is we owe it to the American people to pass a balanced budget deal and to do it now, because we have both identified more than enough savings to do it and to have the tax cut. We should agree on everything we possibly can. Then those things we can't we should defer to the next election. But when the voters vote in the next election they should have no doubt that their budget is going to be balanced and that Medicare and Medicaid and education and the environment are going to be protected; that the country is going to be stronger, that we are moving in the right direction and that here are these two very different sets of views about how we can best meet the challenges of the future. You decide, make your judgment, and you're still in the driver's seat. But meanwhile, we did what we were hired to do and what we said we would do, which is to balance the budget.

We have to adjourn, but let me just say this before I quit—where's Charlie Tasnadi? Where are you? Where are you? This is his—after 32 years working for AP, this is his very last Presidential press conference. Thanks for doing a great job. Let's give him a big hand. [Applause] I'm not sure you're old enough to retire, but there are some days when I can understand why you decided to. [Laughter]

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President's 113th news conference began at 4 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. A portion of this news conference could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

Remarks to the People of Bosnia January 11, 1996

To all the people of Bosnia, let me say I look forward to being with you tomorrow in a land where the waste of war is finally giving way to the promise of peace.

As I visit with American peacekeeping forces stationed in Bosnia, I urge you to seize that promise, to turn the peace agreement signed one month ago from words into deeds. For nearly 4 years the war that tore Bosnia apart dramatized your differences.

But for all that divides you, so much more unites you. Of course you are proud to be Muslims or Croats or Serbs. But all of you are also citizens of Bosnia, bound together by marriage and culture, by language and work, by shared love in a place you all call home. I believe that deep down you all want the same things: To live and raise your families without fear, to make a better life for your children. If these desires are ever to become reality, there must be peace.

The United States and countries all around the world have sent you the men and women of our Armed Forces to help safeguard the peace so many of you have wanted for so long. Our troops are well prepared and heavily armed, but they come in peace. Their mission is to supervise the withdrawal of your armies behind the agreed separation line, to help assure that war does not break out again, to create a more secure climate throughout Bosnia so that you can rebuild your towns and roads, your factories and shops, your parks and playgrounds.

We can help you do all these things, but we cannot guarantee that the people of Bosnia will come together and stay together as citizens, equal citizens, of a common land with a shared destiny. Only you can do that, with the courage of an open mind and the generosity of an open heart.

After so many lives lost and futures destroyed, I know that rebuilding a sense of community and trust may be the very hardest task you face. But you have a responsibility to try, not because other nations want you to do it, not even because your leaders want you to do it. You must do that for yourselves and especially for your children. It is said that every child is the chance for a new beginning. Now, this peace gives to all the children of Bosnia, and to all of their families, the chance for a new beginning. Seize this chance for peace. We don't have to imagine what the future will look like if you don't; we have seen that in the sorrow and suffering you have endured already over the past 4 years.

But just imagine the future if you do seize this moment, if you do rebuild your land and your lives together. For so much of your history you found strength in your diversity. Muslims, Croats, and Serbs flourished side

by side in Sarajevo, in Tuzla, in Mostar, and throughout Bosnia. Some of you prayed in churches, some in mosques, some in synagogues. But you lived and worked together, building schools and libraries, trading goods and services, creating plays and music. You were neighbors and friends and families, and you can be again if you seize the best chance for peace you have had, and what could be the last chance for peace you will have for a long, long time.

I speak to you today on behalf of the American people, who know from our own experience the hard work it takes to forge a community from a nation of so many different groups. More than a century ago we fought a fierce Civil War over race and slavery. Still today we struggle with the legacy of that war, and the challenge of our present make-up when we have so many races and religions and ethnic groups all over America. But we have learned that there are great benefits which come from finding common ground. Our Nation is stronger and the lives of our people are more peaceful, more prosperous, more filled with hope when we bridge the valley of our differences to become a real community. Together with nations from all corners of the world, we have come here to Bosnia to help you do the same.

So, people of Bosnia, you have ended your war, but now you must build your peace. I believe the greatest struggle you face is not among Muslims and Serbs and Croats; it is between those who embrace peace and those who reject it, those who look to the future and those who are blinded by the past, those who open their arms and those who still clench their fists. So each and every one of you must choose. You have seen the horror of war; you know the promise of peace. Choose peace.

May God bless all the people of Bosnia.

NOTE: This address was videotaped at 10:04 a.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House for later broadcast on the United States Information Agency Worldnet, and it was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 12. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this address.

Interview With the Voice of America

January 11, 1996

Q. Mr. President, you are regarded as a hero in Bosnia, you are the person who brought peace over there. Yet, we do have some renewed fighting between Muslims and Croats. Are you going to be meeting with any local leaders and addressing the issue?

The President. Well, I know I'm going to see President Izetbegovic, and I'm going to, hopefully, see President Tudjman. And we may be able to see some others, as well—I don't think that it's been finalized, all the people I will speak with. But I will do what I can while I'm there to help to encourage the parties to follow the letter and the spirit of the Dayton Agreement and the Paris Peace Accord.

Q. NATO bombed the Bosnian Serbs, we know that, and these people are terrified. What do we tell them now that NATO is back in Bosnia?

The President. You should tell them that NATO is back in Bosnia only because the leaders of all the groups asked NATO to come in, as a strictly neutral partner. If you look at the United States, we have agreed to work in an area of Bosnia where we will be working with the Russians who are more sympathetic with the Serbs. We and the Russians are working together in the hope that we can convince all the parties, the Serbs, the Croats, and the Muslims, that we have no ill-will toward anyone, we wish to hurt no one, we are there only to help them implement the peace agreement their own leaders have made.

Q. Thank you.

The President. Thank you.

Q. Good luck.

The President. Thank you.

NOTE: The interview began at approximately 10:15 a.m., following the videotape recording to the people of Bosnia in the Roosevelt Room at the White House, and it was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 12. In his remarks, the President referred to President Alija Izetbegovic of Bosnia-Herzegovina and President Franjo Tudjman of Croatia. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks to Employees at Peterbilt Truck Plant in Nashville, Tennessee

January 12, 1996

The President. Thank you. Boy, I'm glad to be here. I need this. Sort of a fix from home. [Laughter].

I want to thank the Vice President for his wonderful statement this morning, but more important, I want everyone of you to know that whether it's working on downsizing our Government in a way that gives the American people a Government that works better for less or working on finding ways to protect our environment in ways that grow jobs instead of undermining the economy or working on our relationships with Russia in a way that makes sure we are never, never, never again threatened with the specter of nuclear war, Al Gore, from Carthage, Tennessee, is the most influential and effective Vice President in the history of the United States of America.

I've got a lot of friends here today. I want to thank the Mayor for coming and Congressman Clement and Gordon and Tanner. And my dear friend, your former Governor, Ned Ray McWherter, who actually purchases your trucks. At least that's what he tells me. [Laughter] The first time I met Ned McWherter I talked to him for 30 seconds, and I wanted to reach in my back pocket and make sure my billfold was still there. [Laughter]

Audience Members. Ohhhh. [Laughter]

The President. But they're not making many like him anymore, and I'm glad to see him looking so thin and fit. Looks like a new morning. [Laughter]

I want to thank Joe Scattergood and Wayne Wooten for going through the plant with me. And thank you, Bobby Lee, for what you said and for being here. And thank you, Tom Plimpton, for the wonderful tour. And let me say also, I want to thank these retirees who are back here, and I want to mention I met two people today who work here, and this is their last day on the job. And I want to acknowledge them because I think Al Gore and I should have shown up for their retirement party.

The first person has been here 25 years, Mr. Bill Douglas. He's over there. And I met